AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 15-19 as shown in the following complete list of claims:

- 1.-5. (Canceled).
- 6. (Previously Amended) An isolated control nucleic acid for use in a reaction for the amplification of a target nucleic acid region, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.
- 7. (Previously Amended) The isolated control nucleic acid of Claim 6, wherein said target nucleic acid region comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.
- 8. (Previously Amended) The isolated control nucleic acid of Claim 6, wherein said target nucleic acid region comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.
- 9. (Original) A composition comprising a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.
- 10. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.
- 11. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel

complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.

- 12. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, further comprising primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.
- 13. (Original) A kit for the amplification of a target nucleic acid comprising an instruction manual, a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.
- 14. (Original) The kit of Claim 13, further comprising primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.
- 15. (New) A kit for the amplification of a target nucleic acid comprising an instruction manual and a control nucleic acid wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.
- 16. (New) The kit of claim 15, further comprising primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.
- 17. (New) The kit of claim 16 further comprising a control nucleic acid-specific probe.
- 18. (New) The kit of claim 17 further comprising an enzyme.
- 19. (New) The kit of claim 18 further comprising a reaction buffer.